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(54) Title: INTEGRIN LIGAND, HUMAN MINDIN

(57) Abstract

Human Mindin polypeptides and polynucleotides and methods for producing such polypeptides by recombinant techniques are disclosed. Also disclosed are methods for utilizing Human Mindin polypeptides and polynucleotides in therapy, and diagnostic assays for such.

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INTEGRIN LIGAND, HUMAN MINDIN

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/046,106, filed May 9, 1997, whose contents are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

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Field of the Invention

This invention relates to newly identified polypeptides and polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, to their use in therapy and in identifying compounds which may be agonists, antagonists and/or inhibitors which are potentially useful in therapy, and to production of such 10 polypeptides and polynucleotides.

Background of the Invention

The drug discovery process is currently undergoing a fundamental revolution as it embraces 'functional genomics', that is, high throughput genome- or gene-based biology. This approach is 15 rapidly superceding earlier approaches based on 'positional cloning'. A phenotype, that is a biological function or genetic disease, would be identified and this would then be tracked back to the responsible gene, based on its genetic map position.

Functional genomics relies heavily on the various tools of bioinformatics to identify gene sequences of potential interest from the many molecular biology databases now available. There is a 20 continuing need to identify and characterise further genes and their related polypeptides/proteins, as targets for drug discovery.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention relates to Human Mindin, in particular Human Mindin polypeptides 25 and Human Mindin polynucleotides, recombinant materials and methods for their production. In another aspect, the invention relates to methods for using such polypeptides and polynucleotides, including the treatment of angiogenic diseases (cancer, cancer metastasis, chronic inflammatory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy), restenosis, Alzheimer's disease, neural disorders and tissue remodeling, hereinafter referred to as "the Diseases", 30 amongst others. In a further aspect, the invention relates to methods for identifying agonists and antagonists/inhibitors using the materials provided by the invention, and treating conditions associated with Human Mindin imbalance with the identified compounds. In a still further aspect,

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the invention relates to diagnostic assays for detecting diseases associated with inappropriate Human Mindin activity or levels.

Description of the Invention

5 In a first aspect, the present invention relates to Human Mindin polypeptides. Such peptides include isolated polypeptides comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, most preferably at least 97-99% identity, to that of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2. Such polypeptides include those comprising the 10 amino acid of SEQ ID NO:2.

Further peptides of the present invention include isolated polypeptides in which the amino acid sequence has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, most preferably at least 97-99% identity, to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2. Such 15 polypeptides include the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

Further peptides of the present invention include isolated polypeptides encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1.

Polypeptides of the present invention are believed to be members of the thrombospondin family of polypeptides. They are therefore of interest because Human Mindin is potentially a good 20 therapeutic target for identification of antagonists to treat angiogenic diseases (i.e. cancer, cancer metastasis, chronic inflammatory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy), restenosis, Alzheimer's disease, neural disorders and tissue remodeling. These properties are hereinafter referred to as "Human Mindin activity" or "Human Mindin polypeptide activity" or "biological activity of Human Mindin". Also included 25 amongst these activities are antigenic and immunogenic activities of said Human Mindin polypeptides, in particular the antigenic and immunogenic activities of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. Preferably, a polypeptide of the present invention exhibits at least one biological activity of Human Mindin.

Human Mindin is a novel F spondin-like gene which could have a multifunctional activity in 30 normal and disease states. F-spondin has amino acid sequences that reveal the presence of domains known as thrombospondin (TSP). The homology to the F-spondin would "predict" that Human Mindin could have similar functions such F-spondin. F-spondin modulates cell-to-cell and/or cell-to-matrix interaction which is further supported by the anti-aggregative effect observed on cultured

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neuronal cells, aggregation of platelets, formation and lysis of fibrin, adhesion and migration of cells and progression of cells through the growth cycle. F-spondin is implicated as a potential regulator of neural cell adhesion, neurite extension and spinal cord differentiation. F-spondin's effect on growth, adhesion and guidance of neural cells could also be implicated in tumor growth and metastasis.

- 5 Overexpression of F-spondin could cause "increased or suppressed" tumor growth of "neuronal" origin. One of the important functions could be its ability to bind to integrins, such as αVβ3, αIIbβ3 and other unknown integrin receptors.

Integrins are a large family of cell surface receptors that mediate cell-to-cell as well as cell-to-matrix adhesion. Integrins recognize the R-G-D sequence in their extracellular matrix protein ligand.

10 Human Mindin could be such a novel ligand which could play an important role in different diseases. Structurally, integrins consist of a heterodimer of an α and β chain. Each subunit has a large N-terminal extracellular domain followed by a transmembrane domain and a short C-terminal cytoplasmic region. Some receptors share a common β chain while having different α chains. The role of Human Mindin as an integrin ligand is of great interest due to its potential function in angiogenesis and in

15 neural growth and differentiation. Numerous angiogenic-related and neural-related disorders have been described and the role of F-spondin could be implicated in cancer and specifically, cancer metastasis. It has been discovered that Human Mindin is "overexpressed" in numerous tissues (e.g., prostate, uterus, peripheral blood lymphocytes, mammary gland, bladder, cerebellum, occipital lobe, ovary, heart, liver, appendix, and others). The homology to the F-spondin could also suggest that Human

20 Mindin may have proteolytic functions (proteolyze extracellular matrix or basement membrane proteins). The role of Human Mindin as a ligand to the integrin receptors with proteolytic activity fits its assigned role in neural growth, differentiation, angiogenesis and tissue remodeling.

The polypeptides of the present invention may be in the form of the "mature" protein or may be a part of a larger protein such as a fusion protein. It is often advantageous to include an additional amino acid sequence which contains secretory or leader sequences, pro-sequences, sequences which aid in purification such as multiple histidine residues, or an additional sequence for stability during recombinant production.

The present invention also includes variants of the aforementioned polypeptides, that is polypeptides that vary from the referents by conservative amino acid substitutions, whereby a residue is substituted by another with like characteristics. Typical such substitutions are among Ala, Val, Leu and Ile; among Ser and Thr; among the acidic residues Asp and Glu; among Asn and Gln; and among the basic residues Lys and Arg; or aromatic residues Phe and Tyr. Particularly preferred are variants

in which several, 5-10, 1-5, 1-3, 1-2 or 1 amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added in any combination.

Polypeptides of the present invention can be prepared in any suitable manner. Such polypeptides include isolated naturally occurring polypeptides, recombinantly produced polypeptides, synthetically produced polypeptides, or polypeptides produced by a combination of these methods. Means for preparing such polypeptides are well understood in the art.

In a further aspect, the present invention relates to Human Mindin polynucleotides. Such polynucleotides include isolated polynucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2. In this regard, polypeptides which have at least 97% identity are highly preferred, whilst those with at least 98-99% identity are more highly preferred, and those with at least 99% identity are most highly preferred. Such polynucleotides include a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1 encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

Further polynucleotides of the present invention include isolated polynucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, over the entire coding region. In this regard, polynucleotides which have at least 97% identity are highly preferred, whilst those with at least 98-99% identity are more highly preferred, and those with at least 99% identity are most highly preferred.

Further polynucleotides of the present invention include isolated polynucleotides comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, to SEQ ID NO:1 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1. In this regard, polynucleotides which have at least 97% identity are highly preferred, whilst those with at least 98-99% identity are more highly preferred, and those with at least 99% identity are most highly preferred. Such polynucleotides include a polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 as well as the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1.

The invention also provides polynucleotides which are complementary to all the above described polynucleotides.

The nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 shows homology with Mindin2 of Zebrafish (S. Higashijima et al, Dev. Biol. 192: 211-27, 1997). The nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is a cDNA sequence and comprises a polypeptide encoding sequence (nucleotides 1 to 996) encoding a

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polypeptide of 331 amino acids, the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 may be identical to the polypeptide encoding sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1 or it may be a sequence other than the one contained in SEQ ID NO:1, which, as a result of the redundancy (degeneracy) of the genetic code, also encodes the 5 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2. The polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is structurally related to other proteins of the thrombospondin family, having homology and/or structural similarity with Mindin2 of Zebrafish (S. Higashijima et al, Dev. Biol. 192: 211-27, 1997).

Preferred polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention are expected to have, *inter alia*, similar biological functions/properties to their homologous polypeptides and polynucleotides. 10 Furthermore, preferred polypeptides and polynucleotides of the present invention have at least one Human Mindin activity.

The present invention also relates to partial or other polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences which were first identified prior to the determination of the corresponding full length sequences of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

15 Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides for an isolated polynucleotide comprising:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, even more preferably at least 97-99% identity to SEQ ID NO:3 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:3;
 - 20 (b) a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, even more preferably at least 97-99% identity, to SEQ ID NO:3 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:3;
 - (c) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3; or
 - (d) a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 25 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, even more preferably at least 97-99% identity, to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4;
- as well as the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3.

The present invention further provides for a polypeptide which:

30 (a) comprises an amino acid sequence which has at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, most preferably at least 97-99% identity, to that of SEQ ID NO:4 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4;

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- (b) has an amino acid sequence which is at least 70% identity, preferably at least 80% identity, more preferably at least 90% identity, yet more preferably at least 95% identity, most preferably at least 97-99% identity, to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4;
- 5 (c) comprises the amino acid of SEQ ID NO:4; and
- (d) is the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
as well as polypeptides encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:3.

The nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and the peptide sequence encoded thereby are
10 derived from EST (Expressed Sequence Tag) sequences. It is recognised by those skilled in the art that there will inevitably be some nucleotide sequence reading errors in EST sequences (see Adams, M.D. *et al.*, *Nature* 377 (supp) 3, 1995). Accordingly, the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 and the peptide sequence encoded therefrom are therefore subject to the same inherent limitations in sequence accuracy. Furthermore, the peptide sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:3
15 comprises a region of identity or close homology and/or close structural similarity (for example a conservative amino acid difference) with the closest homologous or structurally similar protein.

Polynucleotides of the present invention may be obtained, using standard cloning and screening techniques, from a cDNA library derived from mRNA in cells of human epithelial sarcoma, using the expressed sequence tag (EST) analysis (Adams, M.D., *et al.* *Science* (1991) 252:1651-
20 1656; Adams, M.D. *et al.*, *Nature*, (1992) 355:632-634; Adams, M.D., *et al.*, *Nature* (1995) 377 Supp:3-174). Polynucleotides of the invention can also be obtained from natural sources such as genomic DNA libraries or can be synthesized using well known and commercially available techniques.

When polynucleotides of the present invention are used for the recombinant production of
25 polypeptides of the present invention, the polynucleotide may include the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide, by itself; or the coding sequence for the mature polypeptide in reading frame with other coding sequences, such as those encoding a leader or secretory sequence, a pre-, or pro- or prepro- protein sequence, or other fusion peptide portions. For example, a marker sequence which facilitates purification of the fused polypeptide can be encoded. In certain preferred embodiments of
30 this aspect of the invention, the marker sequence is a hexa-histidine peptide, as provided in the pQE vector (Qiagen, Inc.) and described in Gentz *et al.*, *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* (1989) 86:821-824, or is an HA tag. The polynucleotide may also contain non-coding 5' and 3' sequences, such as transcribed,

non-translated sequences, splicing and polyadenylation signals, ribosome binding sites and sequences that stabilize mRNA.

Further embodiments of the present invention include polynucleotides encoding polypeptide variants which comprise the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and in which several, for instance 5 from 5 to 10, 1 to 5, 1 to 3, 1 to 2 or 1, amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination.

Polynucleotides which are identical or sufficiently identical to a nucleotide sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:1, may be used as hybridization probes for cDNA and genomic DNA or as primers for a nucleic acid amplification (PCR) reaction, to isolate full-length cDNAs and genomic clones encoding 10 polypeptides of the present invention and to isolate cDNA and genomic clones of other genes (including genes encoding homologs and orthologs from species other than human) that have a high sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:1. Typically these nucleotide sequences are 70% identical, preferably 80% identical, more preferably 90% identical, most preferably 95% identical to that of the referent. The probes or primers will generally comprise at least 15 nucleotides, preferably, at least 30 15 nucleotides and may have at least 50 nucleotides. Particularly preferred probes will have between 30 and 50 nucleotides.

A polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of the present invention, including homologs and orthologs from species other than human, may be obtained by a process which comprises the steps of screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having 20 the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof; and isolating full-length cDNA and genomic clones containing said polynucleotide sequence. Such hybridization techniques are well known to the skilled artisan. Preferred stringent hybridization conditions include overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising: 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10 % dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml 25 denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C. Thus the present invention also includes polynucleotides obtainable by screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

The skilled artisan will appreciate that, in many cases, an isolated cDNA sequence will be 30 incomplete, in that the region coding for the polypeptide is cut short at the 5' end of the cDNA. This is a consequence of reverse transcriptase, an enzyme with inherently low 'processivity' (a measure of the ability of the enzyme to remain attached to the template during the polymerisation

reaction), failing to complete a DNA copy of the mRNA template during 1st strand cDNA synthesis.

There are several methods available and well known to those skilled in the art to obtain full-length cDNAs, or extend short cDNAs, for example those based on the method of Rapid 5 Amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) (see, for example, Frohman et al., PNAS USA 85, 8998-9002, 1988). Recent modifications of the technique, exemplified by the Marathon™ technology (Clontech Laboratories Inc.) for example, have significantly simplified the search for longer 10 cDNAs. In the Marathon™ technology, cDNAs have been prepared from mRNA extracted from a chosen tissue and an 'adaptor' sequence ligated onto each end. Nucleic acid amplification 15 (PCR) is then carried out to amplify the 'missing' 5' end of the cDNA using a combination of gene specific and adaptor specific oligonucleotide primers. The PCR reaction is then repeated using 'nested' primers, that is, primers designed to anneal within the amplified product (typically an adaptor specific primer that anneals further 3' in the adaptor sequence and a gene specific primer that anneals further 5' in the known gene sequence). The products of this reaction can 20 then be analysed by DNA sequencing and a full-length cDNA constructed either by joining the product directly to the existing cDNA to give a complete sequence, or carrying out a separate full-length PCR using the new sequence information for the design of the 5' primer.

Recombinant polypeptides of the present invention may be prepared by processes well known 25 in the art from genetically engineered host cells comprising expression systems. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention relates to expression systems which comprise a polynucleotide or 30 polynucleotides of the present invention, to host cells which are genetically engineered with such expression systems and to the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention.

For recombinant production, host cells can be genetically engineered to incorporate expression 35 systems or portions thereof for polynucleotides of the present invention. Introduction of polynucleotides into host cells can be effected by methods described in many standard laboratory manuals, such as Davis et al., Basic Methods in Molecular Biology (1986) and Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold 40 Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1989). Preferred such methods include, for instance, calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-dextran mediated transfection, transvection, microinjection, cationic lipid-mediated transfection, electroporation, transduction, scrape loading, ballistic introduction or infection.

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Representative examples of appropriate hosts include bacterial cells, such as *streptococci*, *staphylococci*, *E. coli*, *Streptomyces* and *Bacillus subtilis* cells; fungal cells, such as yeast cells and *Aspergillus* cells; insect cells such as *Drosophila S2* and *Spodoptera Sf9* cells; animal cells such as CHO, COS, HeLa, C127, 3T3, BHK, HEK 293 and Bowes melanoma cells; and plant cells.

- 5 A great variety of expression systems can be used, for instance, chromosomal, episomal and virus-derived systems, e.g., vectors derived from bacterial plasmids, from bacteriophage, from transposons, from yeast episomes, from insertion elements, from yeast chromosomal elements, from viruses such as baculoviruses, papova viruses, such as SV40, vaccinia viruses, adenoviruses, fowl pox viruses, pseudorabies viruses and retroviruses, and vectors derived from combinations thereof, such as those derived from plasmid and bacteriophage genetic elements, such as cosmids and phagemids. The expression systems may contain control regions that regulate as well as engender expression.
- 10 Generally, any system or vector which is able to maintain, propagate or express a polynucleotide to produce a polypeptide in a host may be used. The appropriate nucleotide sequence may be inserted into an expression system by any of a variety of well-known and routine techniques, such as, for example, those set forth in Sambrook *et al.*, *MOLECULAR CLONING, A LABORATORY MANUAL (supra)*. Appropriate secretion signals may be incorporated into the desired polypeptide to allow secretion of the translated protein into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum, the periplasmic space or the extracellular environment. These signals may be endogenous to the polypeptide or they may be heterologous signals.
- 15 If a polypeptide of the present invention is to be expressed for use in screening assays, it is generally preferred that the polypeptide be produced at the surface of the cell. In this event, the cells may be harvested prior to use in the screening assay. If the polypeptide is secreted into the medium, the medium can be recovered in order to recover and purify the polypeptide. If produced intracellularly, the cells must first be lysed before the polypeptide is recovered.
- 20 Polypeptides of the present invention can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by well-known methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Most preferably, high performance liquid chromatography is employed for purification. Well known techniques for refolding proteins may be employed to regenerate active conformation when the polypeptide is denatured during isolation and or purification.
- 25 This invention also relates to the use of polynucleotides of the present invention as diagnostic reagents. Detection of a mutated form of the gene characterised by the polynucleotide of SEQ ID

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NO:1 which is associated with a dysfunction will provide a diagnostic tool that can add to, or define, a diagnosis of a disease, or susceptibility to a disease, which results from under-expression, over-expression or altered expression of the gene. Individuals carrying mutations in the gene may be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques.

- 5 Nucleic acids for diagnosis may be obtained from a subject's cells, such as from blood, urine, saliva, tissue biopsy or autopsy material. The genomic DNA may be used directly for detection or may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR or other amplification techniques prior to analysis. RNA or cDNA may also be used in similar fashion. Deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the normal genotype. Point mutations can be
10 identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to labeled Human Mindin nucleotide sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase digestion or by differences in melting temperatures. DNA sequence differences may also be detected by alterations in electrophoretic mobility of DNA fragments in gels, with or without denaturing agents, or by direct DNA sequencing (ee, e.g., Myers *et al.*, *Science* (1985) 230:1242). Sequence changes at specific
15 locations may also be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or the chemical cleavage method (see Cotton *et al.*, *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* (1985) 85: 4397-4401). In another embodiment, an array of oligonucleotides probes comprising Human Mindin nucleotide sequence or fragments thereof can be constructed to conduct efficient screening of e.g., genetic mutations. Array technology methods are well known and have general applicability and can be used
20 to address a variety of questions in molecular genetics including gene expression, genetic linkage, and genetic variability (see for example: M.Chee *et al.*, *Science*, Vol 274, pp 610-613 (1996)).

The diagnostic assays offer a process for diagnosing or determining a susceptibility to the Diseases through detection of mutation in the Human Mindin gene by the methods described. In addition, such diseases may be diagnosed by methods comprising determining from a sample
25 derived from a subject an abnormally decreased or increased level of polypeptide or mRNA. Decreased or increased expression can be measured at the RNA level using any of the methods well known in the art for the quantitation of polynucleotides, such as, for example, nucleic acid amplification, for instance PCR, RT-PCR, RNase protection, Northern blotting and other hybridization methods. Assay techniques that can be used to determine levels of a protein, such as a
30 polypeptide of the present invention, in a sample derived from a host are well-known to those of skill in the art. Such assay methods include radioimmunoassays, competitive-binding assays, Western Blot analysis and ELISA assays.

Thus in another aspect, the present invention relates to a diagnostic kit which comprises:

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- (a) a polynucleotide of the present invention, preferably the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof ;
(b) a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of (a);
(c) a polypeptide of the present invention, preferably the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a
5 fragment thereof; or
(d) an antibody to a polypeptide of the present invention, preferably to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

It will be appreciated that in any such kit, (a), (b), (c) or (d) may comprise a substantial component. Such a kit will be of use in diagnosing a disease or suspectability to a disease,
10 particularly angiogenic diseases (cancer, cancer metastasis, chronic inflammatory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy), restenosis, Alzheimer's disease, neural disorders and tissue remodeling, amongst others.

The nucleotide sequences of the present invention are also valuable for chromosome identification. The sequence is specifically targeted to, and can hybridize with, a particular location on
15 an individual human chromosome. The mapping of relevant sequences to chromosomes according to the present invention is an important first step in correlating those sequences with gene associated disease. Once a sequence has been mapped to a precise chromosomal location, the physical position of the sequence on the chromosome can be correlated with genetic map data. Such data are found in, for example, V. McKusick, Mendelian Inheritance in Man (available on-line through Johns Hopkins
20 University Welch Medical Library). The relationship between genes and diseases that have been mapped to the same chromosomal region are then identified through linkage analysis (coinheritance of physically adjacent genes).

The differences in the cDNA or genomic sequence between affected and unaffected individuals can also be determined. If a mutation is observed in some or all of the affected
25 individuals but not in any normal individuals, then the mutation is likely to be the causative agent of the disease.

*The gene of the present invention maps to human chromosome *ChromosomeLocation.

The polypeptides of the invention or their fragments or analogs thereof, or cells expressing them, can also be used as immunogens to produce antibodies immunospecific for polypeptides of the
30 present invention. The term "immunospecific" means that the antibodies have substantially greater affinity for the polypeptides of the invention than their affinity for other related polypeptides in the prior art.

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Antibodies generated against polypeptides of the present invention may be obtained by administering the polypeptides or epitope-bearing fragments, analogs or cells to an animal, preferably a non-human animal, using routine protocols. For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the 5 hybridoma technique (Kohler, G. and Milstein, C., *Nature* (1975) 256:495-497), the trioma technique, the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor *et al.*, *Immunology Today* (1983) 4:72) and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Cole *et al.*, **MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES AND CANCER THERAPY**, pp. 77-96, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 1985).

Techniques for the production of single chain antibodies, such as those described in U.S. 10 Patent No. 4,946,778, can also be adapted to produce single chain antibodies to polypeptides of this invention. Also, transgenic mice, or other organisms, including other mammals, may be used to express humanized antibodies.

The above-described antibodies may be employed to isolate or to identify clones expressing the polypeptide or to purify the polypeptides by affinity chromatography.

15 Antibodies against polypeptides of the present invention may also be employed to treat the Diseases, amongst others.

In a further aspect, the present invention relates to genetically engineered soluble fusion proteins comprising a polypeptide of the present invention, or a fragment thereof, and various portions of the constant regions of heavy or light chains of immunoglobulins of various subclasses 20 (IgG, IgM, IgA, IgE). Preferred as an immunoglobulin is the constant part of the heavy chain of human IgG, particularly IgG1, where fusion takes place at the hinge region. In a particular embodiment, the Fc part can be removed simply by incorporation of a cleavage sequence which can be cleaved with blood clotting factor Xa. Furthermore, this invention relates to processes for the preparation of these fusion proteins by genetic engineering, and to the use thereof for drug 25 screening, diagnosis and therapy. A further aspect of the invention also relates to polynucleotides encoding such fusion proteins. Examples of fusion protein technology can be found in International Patent Application Nos. WO94/29458 and WO94/22914.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method for inducing an immunological response in a mammal which comprises inoculating the mammal with a polypeptide of the present 30 invention, adequate to produce antibody and/or T cell immune response to protect said animal from the Diseases hereinbefore mentioned, amongst others. Yet another aspect of the invention relates to a method of inducing immunological response in a mammal which comprises, delivering a polypeptide of the present invention *via* a vector directing expression of the polynucleotide and

coding for the polypeptide *in vivo* in order to induce such an immunological response to produce antibody to protect said animal from diseases.

A further aspect of the invention relates to an immunological/vaccine formulation (composition) which, when introduced into a mammalian host, induces an immunological response in that mammal to a polypeptide of the present invention wherein the composition comprises a polypeptide or polynucleotide of the present invention. The vaccine formulation may further comprise a suitable carrier. Since a polypeptide may be broken down in the stomach, it is preferably administered parenterally (for instance, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or intradermal injection). Formulations suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents or thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example, sealed ampoules and vials and may be stored in a freeze-dried condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier immediately prior to use. The vaccine formulation may also include adjuvant systems for enhancing the immunogenicity of the formulation, such as oil-in water systems and other systems known in the art. The dosage will depend on the specific activity of the vaccine and can be readily determined by routine experimentation.

Polypeptides of the present invention are responsible for many biological functions, including many disease states, in particular the Diseases hereinbefore mentioned. It is therefore desirous to devise screening methods to identify compounds which stimulate or which inhibit the function of the polypeptide. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides for a method of screening compounds to identify those which stimulate or which inhibit the function of the polypeptide. In general, agonists or antagonists may be employed for therapeutic and prophylactic purposes for such Diseases as hereinbefore mentioned. Compounds may be identified from a variety of sources, for example, cells, cell-free preparations, chemical libraries, and natural product mixtures. Such agonists, antagonists or inhibitors so-identified may be natural or modified substrates, ligands, receptors, enzymes, etc., as the case may be, of the polypeptide; or may be structural or functional mimetics thereof (see Coligan *et al.*, *Current Protocols in Immunology* 1(2):Chapter 5 (1991)).

The screening method may simply measure the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide, or to cells or membranes bearing the polypeptide, or a fusion protein thereof by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound. Alternatively, the screening method may involve competition with a labeled competitor. Further, these screening

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methods may test whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells bearing the polypeptide. Inhibitors of activation are generally assayed in the presence of a known agonist and the effect on activation by the agonist by the presence of the candidate compound is observed.

- 5 Constitutively active polypeptides may be employed in screening methods for inverse agonists or inhibitors, in the absence of an agonist or inhibitor, by testing whether the candidate compound results in inhibition of activation of the polypeptide. Further, the screening methods may simply comprise the steps of mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of the present invention, to form a mixture, measuring Human Mindin activity in the mixture, and
- 10 comparing the Human Mindin activity of the mixture to a standard. Fusion proteins, such as those made from Fc portion and Human Mindin polypeptide, as hereinbefore described, can also be used for high-throughput screening assays to identify antagonists for the polypeptide of the present invention (see D. Bennett *et al.*, J Mol Recognition, 8:52-58 (1995); and K. Johanson *et al.*, J Biol Chem, 270(16):9459-9471 (1995)).

15 *Screening Technique

- The polynucleotides, polypeptides and antibodies to the polypeptide of the present invention may also be used to configure screening methods for detecting the effect of added compounds on the production of mRNA and polypeptide in cells. For example, an ELISA assay may be constructed for measuring secreted or cell associated levels of polypeptide using
- 20 monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies by standard methods known in the art. This can be used to discover agents which may inhibit or enhance the production of polypeptide (also called antagonist or agonist, respectively) from suitably manipulated cells or tissues.

- The polypeptide may be used to identify membrane bound or soluble receptors, if any, through standard receptor binding techniques known in the art. These include, but are not limited
- 25 to, ligand binding and crosslinking assays in which the polypeptide is labeled with a radioactive isotope (for instance, ¹²⁵I), chemically modified (for instance, biotinylated), or fused to a peptide sequence suitable for detection or purification, and incubated with a source of the putative receptor (cells, cell membranes, cell supernatants, tissue extracts, bodily fluids). Other methods include biophysical techniques such as surface plasmon resonance and spectroscopy. These
 - 30 screening methods may also be used to identify agonists and antagonists of the polypeptide which compete with the binding of the polypeptide to its receptors, if any. Standard methods for conducting such assays are well understood in the art.

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Examples of potential polypeptide antagonists include antibodies or, in some cases, oligonucleotides or proteins which are closely related to the ligands, substrates, receptors, enzymes, etc., as the case may be, of the polypeptide, e.g., a fragment of the ligands, substrates, receptors, enzymes, etc.; or small molecules which bind to the polypeptide of the present invention but do not 5 elicit a response, so that the activity of the polypeptide is prevented.

Thus, in another aspect, the present invention relates to a screening kit for identifying agonists, antagonists, ligands, receptors, substrates, enzymes, etc. for polypeptides of the present invention; or compounds which decrease or enhance the production of such polypeptides, which comprises:

- 10 (a) a polypeptide of the present invention;
 - (b) a recombinant cell expressing a polypeptide of the present invention;
 - (c) a cell membrane expressing a polypeptide of the present invention; or
 - (d) antibody to a polypeptide of the present invention;
- which polypeptide is preferably that of SEQ ID NO:2.

15 It will be appreciated that in any such kit, (a), (b), (c) or (d) may comprise a substantial component.

It will be readily appreciated by the skilled artisan that a polypeptide of the present invention may also be used in a method for the structure-based design of an agonist, antagonist or inhibitor of the polypeptide, by:

- 20 (a) determining in the first instance the three-dimensional structure of the polypeptide;
- (b) deducing the three-dimensional structure for the likely reactive or binding site(s) of an agonist, antagonist or inhibitor;
- (c) synthesizing candidate compounds that are predicted to bind to or react with the deduced binding or reactive site; and

25 (d) testing whether the candidate compounds are indeed agonists, antagonists or inhibitors.

It will be further appreciated that this will normally be an iterative process.

- In a further aspect, the present invention provides methods of treating abnormal conditions such as, for instance, angiogenic diseases (cancer, cancer metastasis, chronic inflammatory disorders, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy), restenosis, 30 Alzheimer's disease, neural disorders and tissue remodeling, related to either an excess of, or an under-expression of, Human Mindin polypeptide activity.

If the activity of the polypeptide is in excess, several approaches are available. One approach comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an inhibitor compound (antagonist) as hereinabove

described, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an amount effective to inhibit the function of the polypeptide, such as, for example, by blocking the binding of ligands, substrates, receptors, enzymes, etc., or by inhibiting a second signal, and thereby alleviating the abnormal condition. In another approach, soluble forms of the polypeptides still capable of binding 5 the ligand, substrate, enzymes, receptors, etc. in competition with endogenous polypeptide may be administered. Typical examples of such competitors include fragments of the Human Mindin polypeptide.

In still another approach, expression of the gene encoding endogenous Human Mindin polypeptide can be inhibited using expression blocking techniques. Known such techniques 10 involve the use of antisense sequences, either internally generated or separately administered (see, for example, O'Connor, *J Neurochem* (1991) 56:560 in Oligodeoxynucleotides as Antisense Inhibitors of Gene Expression, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL (1988)). Alternatively, oligonucleotides which form triple helices with the gene can be supplied (see, for example, Lee *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res* (1979) 6:3073; Cooney *et al.*, *Science* (1988) 241:456; Dervan *et al.*, 15 *Science* (1991) 251:1360). These oligomers can be administered *per se* or the relevant oligomers can be expressed *in vivo*.

For treating abnormal conditions related to an under-expression of Human Mindin and its activity, several approaches are also available. One approach comprises administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound which activates a polypeptide of the present invention, 20 i.e., an agonist as described above, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, to thereby alleviate the abnormal condition. Alternatively, gene therapy may be employed to effect the endogenous production of Human Mindin by the relevant cells in the subject. For example, a polynucleotide of the invention may be engineered for expression in a replication defective retroviral vector, as discussed above. The retroviral expression construct may then be isolated and introduced 25 into a packaging cell transduced with a retroviral plasmid vector containing RNA encoding a polypeptide of the present invention such that the packaging cell now produces infectious viral particles containing the gene of interest. These producer cells may be administered to a subject for engineering cells *in vivo* and expression of the polypeptide *in vivo*. For an overview of gene therapy, see Chapter 20, *Gene Therapy and other Molecular Genetic-based Therapeutic Approaches*, (and references cited 30 therein) in *Human Molecular Genetics*, T Strachan and A P Read, BIOS Scientific Publishers Ltd (1996). Another approach is to administer a therapeutic amount of a polypeptide of the present invention in combination with a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

- In a further aspect, the present invention provides for pharmaceutical compositions comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide, such as the soluble form of a polypeptide of the present invention, agonist/antagonist peptide or small molecule compound, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. Such carriers include, but are not limited to, saline,
- 5 buffered saline, dextrose, water, glycerol, ethanol, and combinations thereof. The invention further relates to pharmaceutical packs and kits comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the aforementioned compositions of the invention. Polypeptides and other compounds of the present invention may be employed alone or in conjunction with other compounds, such as therapeutic compounds.
- 10 The composition will be adapted to the route of administration, for instance by a systemic or an oral route. Preferred forms of systemic administration include injection, typically by intravenous injection. Other injection routes, such as subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intraperitoneal, can be used. Alternative means for systemic administration include transmucosal and transdermal administration using penetrants such as bile salts or fusidic acids or other detergents. In addition, if a polypeptide or
- 15 other compounds of the present invention can be formulated in an enteric or an encapsulated formulation, oral administration may also be possible. Administration of these compounds may also be topical and/or localized, in the form of salves, pastes, gels, and the like.

The dosage range required depends on the choice of peptide or other compounds of the present invention, the route of administration, the nature of the formulation, the nature of the subject's

20 condition, and the judgment of the attending practitioner. Suitable dosages, however, are in the range of 0.1-100 µg/kg of subject. Wide variations in the needed dosage, however, are to be expected in view of the variety of compounds available and the differing efficiencies of various routes of administration. For example, oral administration would be expected to require higher dosages than administration by intravenous injection. Variations in these dosage levels can be adjusted using

25 standard empirical routines for optimization, as is well understood in the art.

Polypeptides used in treatment can also be generated endogenously in the subject, in treatment modalities often referred to as "gene therapy" as described above. Thus, for example, cells from a subject may be engineered with a polynucleotide, such as a DNA or RNA, to encode a polypeptide *ex vivo*, and for example, by the use of a retroviral plasmid vector. The cells are then introduced into the

30 subject.

Polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences form a valuable information resource with which to identify further sequences of similar homology. This is most easily facilitated by storing the sequence in a computer readable medium and then using the stored data to search a sequence database using

well known searching tools, such as GCC. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides for a computer readable medium having stored thereon a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and/or a polypeptide sequence encoded thereby.

5. The following definitions are provided to facilitate understanding of certain terms used frequently hereinbefore.

“Antibodies” as used herein includes polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, chimeric, single chain, and humanized antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, including the products of an Fab or other immunoglobulin expression library.

“Isolated” means altered “by the hand of man” from the natural state. If an “isolated”
10 composition or substance occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For example, a polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living animal is not “isolated,” but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is “isolated”, as the term is employed herein.

“Polynucleotide” generally refers to any polyribonucleotide or polydeoxyribonucleotide,
15 which may be unmodified RNA or DNA or modified RNA or DNA. “Polynucleotides” include, without limitation, single- and double-stranded DNA, DNA that is a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, single- and double-stranded RNA, and RNA that is mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, hybrid molecules comprising DNA and RNA that may be single-stranded or, more typically, double-stranded or a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions.
20 In addition, “polynucleotide” refers to triple-stranded regions comprising RNA or DNA or both RNA and DNA. The term “polynucleotide” also includes DNAs or RNAs containing one or more modified bases and DNAs or RNAs with backbones modified for stability or for other reasons. “Modified” bases include, for example, tritylated bases and unusual bases such as inosine. A variety of modifications may be made to DNA and RNA; thus, “polynucleotide”
25 embraces chemically, enzymatically or metabolically modified forms of polynucleotides as typically found in nature, as well as the chemical forms of DNA and RNA characteristic of viruses and cells. “Polynucleotide” also embraces relatively short polynucleotides, often referred to as oligonucleotides.

“Polypeptide” refers to any peptide or protein comprising two or more amino acids joined
30 to each other by peptide bonds or modified peptide bonds, i.e., peptide isosteres. “Polypeptide” refers to both short chains, commonly referred to as peptides, oligopeptides or oligomers, and to longer chains, generally referred to as proteins. Polypeptides may contain amino acids other than the 20 gene-encoded amino acids. “Polypeptides” include amino acid sequences modified either

by natural processes, such as post-translational processing, or by chemical modification techniques which are well known in the art. Such modifications are well described in basic texts and in more detailed monographs, as well as in a voluminous research literature. Modifications may occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains
5 and the amino or carboxyl termini. It will be appreciated that the same type of modification may be present to the same or varying degrees at several sites in a given polypeptide. Also, a given polypeptide may contain many types of modifications. Polypeptides may be branched as a result of ubiquitination, and they may be cyclic, with or without branching. Cyclic, branched and branched cyclic polypeptides may result from post-translation natural processes or may be made
10 by synthetic methods. Modifications include acetylation, acylation, ADP-ribosylation, amidation, covalent attachment of flavin, covalent attachment of a heme moiety, covalent attachment of a nucleotide or nucleotide derivative, covalent attachment of a lipid or lipid derivative, covalent attachment of phosphotidylinositol, cross-linking, cyclization, disulfide bond formation, demethylation, formation of covalent cross-links, formation of cystine, formation of
15 pyroglutamate, formylation, gamma-carboxylation, glycosylation, GPI anchor formation, hydroxylation, iodination, methylation, myristylation, oxidation, proteolytic processing, phosphorylation, prenylation, racemization, selenylation, sulfation, transfer-RNA mediated addition of amino acids to proteins such as arginylation, and ubiquitination (see, for instance,
PROTEINS - STRUCTURE AND MOLECULAR PROPERTIES, 2nd Ed., T. E. Creighton,
20 W. H. Freeman and Company, New York, 1993; Wold, F., Post-translational Protein Modifications: Perspectives and Prospects, pgs. 1-12 in POSTTRANSLATIONAL COVALENT MODIFICATION OF PROTEINS, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York, 1983;
Seifter *et al.*, "Analysis for protein modifications and nonprotein cofactors", *Meth Enzymol* (1990) 182:626-646 and Rattan *et al.*, "Protein Synthesis: Post-translational Modifications and
25 Aging", *Ann NY Acad Sci* (1992) 663:48-62).

"Variant" refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide that differs from a reference polynucleotide or polypeptide, but retains essential properties. A typical variant of a polynucleotide differs in nucleotide sequence from another, reference polynucleotide. Changes in the nucleotide sequence of the variant may or may not alter the amino acid sequence of a
30 polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. Nucleotide changes may result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence, as discussed below. A typical variant of a polypeptide differs in amino acid sequence from another, reference polypeptide. Generally, differences are limited so that the

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sequences of the reference polypeptide and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical. A variant and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions in any combination. A substituted or inserted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code. A variant of a polynucleotide 5 or polypeptide may be a naturally occurring such as an allelic variant, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Non-naturally occurring variants of polynucleotides and polypeptides may be made by mutagenesis techniques or by direct synthesis.

"Identity," as known in the art, is a relationship between two or more polypeptide sequences or two or more polynucleotide sequences, as the case may be, as determined by comparing the sequences. 10 In the art, "identity" also means the degree of sequence relatedness between polypeptide or polynucleotide sequences, as the case may be, as determined by the match between strings of such sequences. "Identity" can be readily calculated by known methods, including but not limited to those described in (*Computational Molecular Biology*, Lesk, A.M., ed., Oxford University Press, New York, 1988; *Biocomputing: Informatics and Genome Projects*, Smith, D.W., ed., Academic 15 Press, New York, 1993; *Computer Analysis of Sequence Data*, Part I, Griffin, A.M., and Griffin, H.G., eds., Humana Press, New Jersey, 1994; *Sequence Analysis in Molecular Biology*, von Heinje, G., Academic Press, 1987; and *Sequence Analysis Primer*, Gribskov, M. and Devereux, J., eds., M Stockton Press, New York, 1991; and Carillo, H., and Lipman, D., *SIAM J. Applied Math.*, 48: 1073 (1988). Methods to determine identity are designed to give the largest match 20 between the sequences tested. Moreover, methods to determine identity are codified in publicly available computer programs. Computer program methods to determine identity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, the GCG program package (Devereux, J., et al., *Nucleic Acids Research* 12(1): 387 (1984)), BLASTP, BLASTN, and FASTA (Atschul, S.F. et al., *J. Molec. Biol.* 215: 403-410 (1990)). The BLAST X program is publicly available from NCBI and 25 other sources (*BLAST Manual*, Altschul, S., et al., NCBI NLM NIH Bethesda, MD 20894; Altschul, S., et al., *J. Mol. Biol.* 215: 403-410 (1990)). The well known Smith Waterman algorithm may also be used to determine identity.

Parameters for polypeptide sequence comparison include the following:

- 1) Algorithm: Needleman and Wunsch, *J. Mol Biol.* 48: 443-453 (1970)
- 30 Comparison matrix: BLOSSUM62 from Hentikoff and Hentikoff, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.* 89:10915-10919 (1992)
- Gap Penalty: 12
- Gap Length Penalty: 4

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A program useful with these parameters is publicly available as the "gap" program from Genetics Computer Group, Madison WI. The aforementioned parameters are the default parameters for peptide comparisons (along with no penalty for end gaps).

Parameters for polynucleotide comparison include the following:

- 5 1) Algorithm: Needleman and Wunsch, J. Mol Biol. 48: 443-453 (1970)

Comparison matrix: matches = + 10, mismatch = 0

Gap Penalty: 50

Gap Length Penalty: 3

- Available as: The "gap" program from Genetics Computer Group, Madison WI. These are the
10 default parameters for nucleic acid comparisons.

A preferred meaning for "identity" for polynucleotides and polypeptides, as the case may be, are provided in (1) and (2) below.

- (1) Polynucleotide embodiments further include an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least a 50, 60, 70, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97 or 100% identity to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said polynucleotide sequence may be identical to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or may include up to a certain integer number of nucleotide alterations as compared to the reference sequence, wherein said alterations are selected from the group consisting of at least one nucleotide deletion, substitution, including transition and transversion, or insertion, and wherein said alterations may occur at the 5' or 3' terminal positions 20 of the reference nucleotide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the nucleotides in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence, and wherein said number of nucleotide alterations is determined by multiplying the total number of nucleotides in SEQ ID NO:1 by the integer defining the percent identity divided by 100 and then subtracting that product from said total number of 25 nucleotides in SEQ ID NO:1, or:

$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \cdot y),$$

- wherein n_n is the number of nucleotide alterations, x_n is the total number of nucleotides in SEQ ID 30 NO:1, y is 0.50 for 50%, 0.60 for 60%, 0.70 for 70%, 0.80 for 80%, 0.85 for 85%, 0.90 for 90%, 0.95 for 95%, 0.97 for 97% or 1.00 for 100%; and • is the symbol for the multiplication operator, and wherein any non-integer product of x_n and y is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting it from x_n . Alterations of a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide

of SEQ ID NO:2 may create nonsense, missense or frameshift mutations in this coding sequence and thereby alter the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide following such alterations.

By way of example, a polynucleotide sequence of the present invention may be identical to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, that is it may be 100% identical, or it may include up to a certain integer number of amino acid alterations as compared to the reference sequence such that the percent identity is less than 100% identity. Such alterations are selected from the group consisting of at least one nucleic acid deletion, substitution, including transition and transversion, or insertion, and wherein said alterations may occur at the 5' or 3' terminal positions of the reference polynucleotide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the nucleic acids in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. The number of nucleic acid alterations for a given percent identity is determined by multiplying the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2 by the integer defining the percent identity divided by 100 and then subtracting that product from said total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, or:

15

$$n_n \leq x_n - (x_n \cdot y),$$

wherein n_n is the number of amino acid alterations, x_n is the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, y is, for instance 0.70 for 70%, 0.80 for 80%, 0.85 for 85% etc., • is the symbol for the multiplication operator, and wherein any non-integer product of x_n and y is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting it from x_n .

(2) Polypeptide embodiments further include an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide having at least a 50, 60, 70, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97 or 100% identity to a polypeptide reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide sequence may be identical to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or may include up to a certain integer number of amino acid alterations as compared to the reference sequence, wherein said alterations are selected from the group consisting of at least one amino acid deletion, substitution, including conservative and non-conservative substitution, or insertion, and wherein said alterations may occur at the amino- or carboxy-terminal positions of the reference polypeptide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the amino acids in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence, and wherein said number of amino acid alterations is determined by multiplying the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID

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NO:2 by the integer defining the percent identity divided by 100 and then subtracting that product from said total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, or:

$$n_a \leq x_a - (x_a \cdot y),$$

5

wherein n_a is the number of amino acid alterations, x_a is the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, y is 0.50 for 50%, 0.60 for 60%, 0.70 for 70%, 0.80 for 80%, 0.85 for 85%, 0.90 for 90%, 0.95 for 95%, 0.97 for 97% or 1.00 for 100%, and • is the symbol for the multiplication operator, and wherein any non-integer product of x_a and y is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting it from x_a .

By way of example, a polypeptide sequence of the present invention may be identical to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, that is it may be 100% identical, or it may include up to a certain integer number of amino acid alterations as compared to the reference sequence such that the percent identity is less than 100% identity. Such alterations are selected from the group consisting of at least one amino acid deletion, substitution, including conservative and non-conservative substitution, or insertion, and wherein said alterations may occur at the amino- or carboxy-terminal positions of the reference polypeptide sequence or anywhere between those terminal positions, interspersed either individually among the amino acids in the reference sequence or in one or more contiguous groups within the reference sequence. The number of amino acid alterations for a given 15 % identity is determined by multiplying the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2 by the integer defining the percent identity divided by 100 and then subtracting that product from said total 20 number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, or:

$$n_a \leq x_a - (x_a \cdot y),$$

25

wherein n_a is the number of amino acid alterations, x_a is the total number of amino acids in SEQ ID NO:2, y is, for instance 0.70 for 70%, 0.80 for 80%, 0.85 for 85% etc., and • is the symbol for the multiplication operator, and wherein any non-integer product of x_a and y is rounded down to the nearest integer prior to subtracting it from x_a .

30

"Fusion protein" refers to a protein encoded by two, often unrelated, fused genes or fragments thereof. In one example, EP-A-0 464 discloses fusion proteins comprising various portions of constant region of immunoglobulin molecules together with another human protein or

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part thereof. In many cases, employing an immunoglobulin Fc region as a part of a fusion protein is advantageous for use in therapy and diagnosis resulting in, for example, improved pharmacokinetic properties [see, e.g., EP-A 0232 262]. On the other hand, for some uses it would be desirable to be able to delete the Fc part after the fusion protein has been expressed,
5 detected and purified.

All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications, cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference herein as though fully set forth.

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SEQUENCE INFORMATION

SEQ ID NO:1

ATGGAAAACCCAGCCGCCGCCCTGGCAAGGCCCTCGCCTCCTGCCACTCTGGCGCCGC
 CGGCCAGGCCCTGGGGGAGAGTCATCTGTTCCGCCAGAGGCCCTGGCAAATACAGCATCACCTTCACGGCA
 5 ATTGGAGCCAGACGGCCTTCCCCAAGCAGTACCCCTGTTCCGCCAGAGGCCCTGGCAAATACAGCATCACCTTCACGGCA
 GCCGCCATAGCTCCGACTACAGCATGTGGAGGAAGAACCAAGTACGTCAGTAACGGGCTGCCGACTTTGCCGA
 ACGCCGCCAGGCCCTGGGCCGCTGATTAAGGAGATCGAGGCCGGGGAGGCCGCTGCCAGAGCGTCACGCCGTGT
 TTTCCGGCCCGCCGCTCCCAGCGGCACCGGGCAGACGTCGGCGAGCTGGAGGTGCCAGCGCAGGCCACTCGCTG
 GTCTCGTTGTGGTGCATCGGCCAGCCCCACTGGTCGTGGCGTGGACAGCCTGGACCTGTGCGACAGG
 10 GGACCGTTGGCGGAACAGGCCGCCGCTGGACCTGACCCCTACGACGCCGGACGGACAGCGGCTTCACCTTCT
 CCTCCCCCAACTCGCCACCATCCCGCAGGACACGGTGACCGAGATAACGTCCTCCTCCAGCCACCCGCC
 AACTCCTCTACTACCCGCCGCTGAAGGCCCTGCCCTCCATGCCAGGGTACACTGGTGCCTGCCGACAGAG
 CCCCAGGGCTTCATCCCTCCGCCAGTCCTGCCAGCAGGGACAATGAGATTGTAGACAGCGCCTCAGTTC
 CAGAAACGCCGCTGGACTGCGAGGTCTCCCTGTTGTCGTCCCTGGGACTGTGCGGAGGCCACTGTGGAGGCTC
 15 GGGACCAAGAGCAGGACTCGCTACGCCGGTCCAGCCCCGCAACAACGGGAGCCCCCTGCCAGCTCGAAGA
 AGAGGCTGAGTGCCTGATAACTCGCTAA

SEQ ID NO:2

20 MENPSAAALGKALCALLLATLGAACQPLGGESICSARALAKYSITFTGNWSQTAFPKQYPLFRPPAQWSSLLG
 AAHSSDYSMWRKNQYVSNGLRDFAEERGEAWALIKEIEAAGEALQSVHAVFSAPAVPSGTGQTSAELEVQRHSL
 VSFVVRIVPSPDWFVGVDSDLLCDGDRWREQAALDLYPYDAGTDGFTFSSPNFATIPQDTVTEITSSSPSHPA
 NSFYYPRLKALPIARVTLVRRLQSPRAFIAPPVLPSPRDNEIVDSASVPETPLCEVSLWSSWGLCGGHCGRL
 GTKSRTRYVRVQPANNGSPCPELEEEAECPDNCV*

25 SEQ ID NOS:3 and 4

GGCACgAGCGAagACAGGAGGAACCTGGAGCCTCATGGCCGCCGGGCCGCCGGCTCG	60
GGCTTAAATAGGA _g CTCCGGCTCTGGCTGGACCC _g ACCGCTGCCGCCGCTCCGC	120
TGCTCCTGCCGGTGATGGAAAACCCAGCCGCCGCCCTGGCAAGGCCCTCTGC	180

M E N P S P A A A L G K A L C

30 GCTCTCCTGCCACTCTGGCCGCCGGCCAGCCTCTGGGGGAgAgTCCATCTGT 240
 A L L A T L G A A G Q P L G G E S I C

TCCGCCAgAgCCCTGGCAAATACAGCATCACCTTCACGGCAATTGGAGCCAgACGGCC 300
 35 S A R A L A K Y S I T F T G N W S Q T A

TTCCCCAAGCAGTACCCCTGTTCCGCCGCCCTGCCAgTGGTCTTCGCTGCTGGGGCC 360
 F P K Q Y P L F R P P A Q W S S L L G A

40 GCgCATAgCTCCgACTACAGCATGTGGAGGAAGAACCAAGTACgTCAgTAACGGGCTGCC 420

- 26 -

A H S S D Y S M W R K N Q Y V S N G L R

gActTTTGCGGAACGCGGCgAgGCCTGGCGCTGATTAAGGAGATC

465

D F A E R G E A W A L I K E I

5

~ 500bp gap in sequence

TAAGACCAGAGCCCCcGCAGCCCCtGGGGCCCCCGGAGCCATGGGGTGTGGGGGCTCCT

60

* D Q S P A A P G A P R S H G V S G A P

10

GTCAGGcTCATGcTGCAGGCGgCCGAGGGCACAGGGGTTTCGGCTGcTCCTGACCGC

120

V Q A H A A G G R G H R G F R A A P D R

GGTAGGGCCGCGCCGACCATcTcTGCAATGAAGGGCCCTCTGGTGGCCGGCACGGGCATT

180

15 G E A A P T I S A M K G P L V A G T G I

GGGAAACAGCCTCCTCCTTCCAACCTTGCTTCTAGGGCCCCGTGTCCCGTcTGCT

240

G K Q P P P F P T L L L R G P R V P S A

20 CTCAGCCTCCTCCTGCAGGATAAAAGTCATCCCCAAGGCTCCAGCTACTcTAAATTAT

300

L S L L L Q D K V I P K A P A T L N Y

GTCTCCTTATAAGTTATTGCTGCTCCAGGAGATTGTCCTTCATcGTCCAGGGGCTGGCT

360

V S L * V I A A P G D C P S S S R G L A

25

CCCACGTGGTGCAGATAACCTCAGACCTGGTGCtTAGGCTGTGcTGAGCCCACCTCTCCC

420

P T W L Q I P Q T W C S R L C * A H S P

GAGGGCGCATCCAAGCGGGGCCACTTGAGAAGTGAATAATGGGGCGTTTCGGAAGCG

480

30 E G A S K R G P L E K * I N G A V S E A

TCAGTGTTCATGTTATGGATCTCTGCGTTGAATAAGACTATCTCTGTTGCTCAA

540

S V F P C Y G S L C V * I K T I S V A Q

35 **AAAAAAAAAAAAAAA**

555

K K K K K

- 27 -

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION

5

(i) APPLICANT: SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION

10

(ii) TITLE OF THE INVENTION: INTEGRIN LIGAND, HUMAN MINDIN

15

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4

20

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

15

- (A) ADDRESSEE: RATNER & PRESTIA
- (B) STREET: P.O. BOX 980
- (C) CITY: VALLEY FORGE
- (D) STATE: PA
- (E) COUNTRY: USA
- (F) ZIP: 19482

20

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

25

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM Compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: FastSEQ for Windows Version 2.0

30

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

30

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: TO BE ASSIGNED
- (B) FILING DATE: 07-MAY-1998
- (C) CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN

35

(vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/046,106
- (B) FILING DATE: 09-MAY-1997

40

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

- (A) NAME: PRESTIA, PAUL F
- (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 23,031
- (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: GH-70012

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

- 28 -

- (A) TELEPHONE: 610-407-0700
- (B) TELEFAX: 610-407-0701
- (C) TELEX: 846169

5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 996 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

15 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

ATGGAAAACC	CCAGCCCGC	CGCCGCCCTG	GGCAAGGCC	TCTGCCTCT	CCTCCCTGGCC	60
ACTCTCGGCG	CCGCCGCCA	GCCTCTTGGG	GGAGAGTCCA	TCTGTTCCGC	CAGAGCCCTG	120
GCCAAATACA	GCATCACCTT	CACGGGAAT	TGGAGCCAGA	CGGCCTTCCC	CAAGCAGTAC	180
20 CCCCTGTTCC	GCCCCCTGTC	GCAGTGGTCT	TCGCTGCTGG	GGGCCGCGCA	TAGCTCCGAC	240
TACAGCATGT	GGAGGAAGAA	CCAGTACGTC	AGTAACGGGC	TGCGCGACTT	TGCGGAACGC	300
GGCGAGGCCT	GGCGCTGAT	TAAGGAGATC	GAGGCGGCCG	GGGAGGCGCT	GCAGAGCGTG	360
CACCGGGTGT	TTTCGGCGCC	CGCCGTCCCC	AGCGGCACCG	GGCAGACGTC	GGCGGAGCTG	420
GAGGTGCAGC	GCAGGCACTC	GCTGGTCTCG	TTTGTGGTGC	GCATCGTGCC	CAGCCCCGAC	480
25 TGGTCGTGG	GCGTGGACAG	CCTGGACCTG	TGCGACGGGG	ACCGTTGGCG	GGAACAGGCG	540
GCGCTGGACC	TGTACCCCTA	CGACGCCGGG	ACGGACAGCG	GCTTCACCTT	CTCCTCCCCC	600
AACTTCGCCA	CCATCCCGCA	GGACACGGTG	ACCGAGATAA	CGTCCTCCTC	TCCCAGCCAC	660
CCGGCCAACT	CCTTCTACTA	CCCGCGGCTG	AAGGCCCTGC	CTCCCATCGC	CAGGGTGACA	720
CTGGTGCAGC	TGCGACAGAG	CCCCAGGGCC	TTCATCCCTC	CCGCCCCAGT	CCTGCCCAGC	780
30 AGGGACAATG	AGATTGTAGA	CAGGCCCTCA	GTTCCAGAAA	CGCCGCTGGA	CTGCGAGGTC	840
TCCCTGTGGT	CGTCCTGGGG	ACTGTGCGGA	GGCCACTGTG	GGAGGCTCGG	GACCAAGAGC	900
AGGACTCGCT	ACGTCCGGGT	CCAGCCCGCC	AACAACGGGA	GCCCCTGCC	CGAGCTCGAA	960
GAAGAGGCTG	AGTGCCTCCC	TGATAACTGC	GTCTAA			996

35 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 331 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

40

- 29 -

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met Glu Asn Pro Ser Pro Ala Ala Ala Leu Gly Lys Ala Leu Cys Ala
1 5 10 15

5 Leu Leu Leu Ala Thr Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Gln Pro Leu Gly Gly Glu
20 25 30

Ser Ile Cys Ser Ala Arg Ala Leu Ala Lys Tyr Ser Ile Thr Phe Thr
35 40 45

Gly Asn Trp Ser Gln Thr Ala Phe Pro Lys Gln Tyr Pro Leu Phe Arg
10 50 55 60

Pro Pro Ala Gln Trp Ser Ser Leu Leu Gly Ala Ala His Ser Ser Asp
65 70 75 80

Tyr Ser Met Trp Arg Lys Asn Gln Tyr Val Ser Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp
85 90 95

15 Phe Ala Glu Arg Gly Glu Ala Trp Ala Leu Ile Lys Glu Ile Glu Ala
100 105 110

Ala Gly Glu Ala Leu Gln Ser Val His Ala Val Phe Ser Ala Pro Ala
115 120 125

Val Pro Ser Gly Thr Gly Gln Thr Ser Ala Glu Leu Glu Val Gln Arg
20 130 135 140

Arg His Ser Leu Val Ser Phe Val Val Arg Ile Val Pro Ser Pro Asp
145 150 155 160

Trp Phe Val Gly Val Asp Ser Leu Asp Leu Cys Asp Gly Asp Arg Trp
165 170 175

25 Arg Glu Gln Ala Ala Leu Asp Leu Tyr Pro Tyr Asp Ala Gly Thr Asp
180 185 190

Ser Gly Phe Thr Phe Ser Ser Pro Asn Phe Ala Thr Ile Pro Gln Asp
195 200 205

Thr Val Thr Glu Ile Thr Ser Ser Ser Pro Ser His Pro Ala Asn Ser
210 215 220

30 Phe Tyr Tyr Pro Arg Leu Lys Ala Leu Pro Pro Ile Ala Arg Val Thr
225 230 235 240

Leu Val Arg Leu Arg Gln Ser Pro Arg Ala Phe Ile Pro Pro Ala Pro
245 250 255

35 Val Leu Pro Ser Arg Asp Asn Glu Ile Val Asp Ser Ala Ser Val Pro
260 265 270

Glu Thr Pro Leu Asp Cys Glu Val Ser Leu Trp Ser Ser Trp Gly Leu
275 280 285

Cys Gly Gly His Cys Gly Arg Leu Gly Thr Lys Ser Arg Thr Arg Tyr
40 290 295 300

Val Arg Val Gln Pro Ala Asn Asn Gly Ser Pro Cys Pro Glu Leu Glu
305 310 315 320

Glu Glu Ala Glu Cys Val Pro Asp Asn Cys Val

- 30 -

325

330

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

5 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1020 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

10 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

	GGCACGAGCG AAGACAGGAG GAACTGGAGC CTCATTGCC GGCCCGGGC GCCGGCCTCG	60
15	GGCTTAAATA GGAGCTCCGG GCTCTGGCTG GGACCCGACC GCTGCCGGCC GCGCTCCCGC	120
	TGCTCCTGCC GGGTGATGGA AAACCCAGC CCGGCCGCCG CCCTGGGCAA GGCCCTCTGC	180
	GCTCTCCCTCC TGGCCACTCT CGGCAGCCGC GGCCAGCTC TTGGGGGAGA GTCCCATCTGT	240
	TCCGCCAGAG CCCTGGCCAA ATACAGCATE ACCTTCACGG GCAATTGGAG CCAGACGGCC	300
20	TTCCCCAAGC AGTACCCCCCT GTTCCGCCCT CCTGCGCAGT GGTCTTCGCT GCTGGGGGCC	360
	GCGCATAGCT CCGACTACAG CATGTGGAGG AAGAACCAAGT ACGTCAGTAA CGGGCTGCC	420
	GACTTTGCGG AACGCGGCCGA GGCTGGCG CTGATTAAGG AGATCTAAGA CCAGAGCCCC	480
	GCAGCCCCCTG GGGCCCCCG GAGCCATGGG GTGTCGGGG CTCCTGTGCA GGCTCATGCT	540
	GCAGGGCGCC GAGGGCACAG GGGGTTTCGC GCTGCTCCCTG ACCGCGGTGA GGCCGCGCCG	600
25	ACCATCTCTG CAATGAAGGG CCCTCTGGTG GCCGGCACCG GCATTGGAA ACAGCCTCCT	660
	CCTTTCCCAA CCTTGCTTCT TAGGGGCCCT CGTGTCCCCT CTGCTCTCAG CCTCCTCCTC	720
	CTGCGAGGATA AAGTCATCCC CAAGGCTCCA GCTACTCTAA ATTATGTCTC CTTATAAGTT	780
	ATTGCTGCTC CAGGAGATTG TCCTTCATCG TCCAGGGGCC TGGCTCCAC GTGGTTGCAG	840
	ATACCTCAGA CCTGGTGCTC TAGGCTGTGC TGAGCCCCT CTCCCGAGGG CGCATCCAAG	900
30	CGGGGGCCAC TTGAGAAGTG AATAAATGGG GCGGTTCCGG AAGCGTCAGT GTTTCCATGT	960
	TATGGATCTC TCTGCGTTTG AATAAAGACT ATCTCTGTG CTCAAAAAAA AAAAAAAA	1020

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

35 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 290 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

40

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

Met Glu Asn Pro Ser Pro Ala Ala Ala Leu Gly Lys Ala Leu Cys Ala

- 31 -

1	5	10	15
Leu Leu Leu Ala Thr Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Gln Pro Leu Gly Glu			
20	25	30	
Ser Ile Cys Ser Ala Arg Ala Leu Ala Lys Tyr Ser Ile Thr Phe Thr			
5	35	40	45
Gly Asn Trp Ser Gln Thr Ala Phe Pro Lys Gln Tyr Pro Leu Phe Arg			
50	55	60	
Pro Pro Ala Gln Trp Ser Ser Leu Leu Gly Ala Ala His Ser Ser Asp			
65	70	75	80
10	Tyr Ser Met Trp Arg Lys Asn Gln Tyr Val Ser Asn Gly Leu Arg Asp		
	85	90	95
Phe Ala Glu Arg Gly Glu Ala Trp Ala Leu Ile Lys Glu Ile Asp Gln			
	100	105	110
Ser Pro Ala Ala Pro Gly Ala Pro Arg Ser His Gly Val Ser Gly Ala			
15	115	120	125
Pro Val Gln Ala His Ala Ala Gly Arg Gly His Arg Gly Phe Arg			
	130	135	140
Ala Ala Pro Asp Arg Gly Glu Ala Ala Pro Thr Ile Ser Ala Met Lys			
145	150	155	160
20	Gly Pro Leu Val Ala Gly Thr Gly Ile Gly Lys Gln Pro Pro Pro Phe		
	165	170	175
Pro Thr Leu Leu Leu Arg Gly Pro Arg Val Pro Ser Ala Leu Ser Leu			
	180	185	190
Leu Leu Leu Gln Asp Lys Val Ile Pro Lys Ala Pro Ala Thr Leu Asn			
25	195	200	205
Tyr Val Ser Leu Val Ile Ala Ala Pro Gly Asp Cys Pro Ser Ser Ser			
	210	215	220
Arg Gly Leu Ala Pro Thr Trp Leu Gln Ile Pro Gln Thr Trp Cys Ser			
225	230	235	240
30	Arg Leu Cys Ala His Ser Pro Glu Gly Ala Ser Lys Arg Gly Pro Leu		
	245	250	255
Glu Lys Ile Asn Gly Ala Val Ser Glu Ala Ser Val Phe Pro Cys Tyr			
	260	265	270
Gly Ser Leu Cys Val Ile Lys Thr Ile Ser Val Ala Gln Lys Lys Lys			
35	275	280	285
Lys Lys			
	290		

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group having at least:

- 5 (a) 70% identity;
(b) 80% identity;
(c) 90% identity; or
(d) 95% identity

10 to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2;

(ii) an isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or

(iii) an isolated polypeptide which is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

2. An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

15 (i) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that has at least

- (a) 70% identity;
(b) 80% identity;
(c) 90% identity; or
20 (d) 95% identity;

to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2;

(ii) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least:

- (a) 70% identity
(b) 80% identity;
25 (c) 90% identity; or
(d) 95% identity;

over its entire length to a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(iii) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least:

- 30 (a) 70% identity;
(b) 80% identity;
(c) 90% identity; or
(d) 95% identity;

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to that of SEQ ID NO: 1 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1;

(iv) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(vi) an isolated polynucleotide which is the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

5 (vi) an isolated polynucleotide obtainable by screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.;

or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.

10 3. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide of claim 1.

4. A method for the treatment of a subject:

(i) in need of enhanced activity or expression of the polypeptide of claim 1 comprising:

- 15 (a) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an agonist to said polypeptide; and/or
- (b) providing to the subject an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding said polypeptide in a form so as to effect production of said polypeptide activity *in vivo*.; or

(ii) having need to inhibit activity or expression of the polypeptide of claim 1

20 comprising:

- (a) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist to said polypeptide; and/or
- (b) administering to the subject a nucleic acid molecule that inhibits the expression of a nucleotide sequence encoding said polypeptide; and/or
- 25 (c) administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a polypeptide that competes with said polypeptide for its ligand, substrate , or receptor.

30 5. A process for diagnosing a disease or a susceptibility to a disease in a subject related to expression or activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a subject comprising:

- (a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the nucleotide sequence encoding said polypeptide in the genome of said subject; and/or
- (b) analyzing for the presence or amount of said polypeptide expression in a sample

derived from said subject.

6. A method for screening to identify compounds which stimulate or which inhibit the function of the polypeptide of claim 1 which comprises a method selected from the group consisting of:

- 5 (a) measuring the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes bearing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound;
 - 10 (b) measuring the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes bearing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof in the presence of a labeled competitor;
 - 15 (c) testing whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells or cell membranes bearing the polypeptide;
 - 20 (d) mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of claim 1, to form a mixture, measuring activity of the polypeptide in the mixture, and comparing the activity of the mixture to a standard; or
 - 25 (e) detecting the effect of a candidate compound on the production of mRNA encoding said polypeptide and said polypeptide in cells, using for instance, an ELISA assay.
- 20 7. An agonist or an antagonist of the polypeptide of claim 1.
- 20 8. An expression system comprising a polynucleotide capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1 when said expression system is present in a compatible host cell.
- 25 9. A process for producing a recombinant host cell comprising transforming or transfecting a cell with the expression system of claim 8 such that the host cell, under appropriate culture conditions, produces a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 30 10. A recombinant host cell produced by the process of claim 9.

- 35 -

11. A membrane of a recombinant host cell of claim 10 expressing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 5 12. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing a host cell of claim 10 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture.
13. An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
 - 10 (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97% identity to SEQ ID NO:3 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:3;
 - (b) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3;
 - (c) the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:3; or
 - (d) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide which has at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97-99% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4.
14. A polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - 20 (a) a polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence which has at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97-99% identity to that of SEQ ID NO:4 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (b) a polypeptide which has an amino acid sequence which is at least 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, 97-99% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (c) a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - 25 (d) a polypeptide which is the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
 - (e) a polypeptide which is encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence contained in SEQ ID NO:3.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/09476

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :Please See Extra Sheet.

US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : Please See Extra Sheet.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

APS, DIALOG, BIOSIS, EMBASE, CA, MEDLINE, WPI, PIR, SWISSPROT, A-GENESEQ, GENBANK, EMBL
search terms; mindin, SEQ ID NOS 1-4**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Database GENBANK, Accession No. W73595, 16 October 1996, HILLIER et al., The WashU-Merck EST Project, accessed 30 June 1998.	13-14
P,Y	HIGASHIJIMA et al., Mindin/F-spondin Family: Novel ECM Proteins Expressed in the Zebrafish Embryonic Axis. Developmental Biology. 15 December 1997, Vol. 192, No. 2, pages 211- 227, see entire document.	1-14

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"A"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 AUGUST 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report 15 SEP 1998
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer PHILLIP GAMBEL Telephone No. (703) 308-0196
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/09476

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

IPC (6):

A61K 39/395, 48/00; C07H 21/04; C07K 14/435, 14/705, 16/00, 16/28; C12N 15/11, 15/63; G01N 33/53

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:

US CL :

424/ 130.1, 139.1, 143.1; 435/7.1, 7.2, 69.1, 70.1, 71.1, 252.3, 320.1; 440, 455, 471; 530/350, 387.1, 387.2, 388.2, 388.2;
536/23.1, 23.5; 514/44

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched

Classification System: U.S.

424/ 130.1, 139.1, 143.1; 435/7.1, 7.2, 69.1, 70.1, 71.1, 252.3, 320.1; 440, 455, 471; 530/350, 387.1, 387.2, 388.2, 388.2;
536/23.1, 23.5; 514/44

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